

Television programming should be accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing just like it is to everyone else. I am writing on behalf of TSHA, Inc and the Deaf community, asking you to provide accessible television programming, to the deaf and hard of hearing-communities by adding closed captioning to **all** of your televised programs.

Because of lack of television stations providing closed captioning, we have had many experiences where staff and myself have stood in the lobby of our office interpreting breaking news, severe weather or an important event to the Deaf community. We **are the only** resource the Deaf community has as a means to understand what is happening. In today's technological world, this should NOT be happening. **To those with hearing-loss, closed captioning is an essential part of any television program.**

**The law requiring closed captioning was passed in 1996.** The FCC established closed captioning rules in 1998. The rules required closed captioning to be increased gradually over 8 years. Since January 2006, 100% of all new television programs must be captioned, with some exceptions. This program should not be an exception.

Today, closed captions are not too difficult or too expensive. No program should be on television without closed captions!

People who are deaf or have a severe hearing-loss cannot watch television programs without closed captions. In addition, for people with a mild to moderate hearing-loss, as well as their families, watching programs with closed captioning makes for a more informed and enjoyable experience. By including closed captions in programs, not only is the receiver get equal benefit from the program as everyone else, it also shows the program producer cares about needs of individuals with a hearing-loss.

The FCC must support deaf and hard of hearing consumers and must enforce the closed captioning rules!

Sincerely,

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